

Siwaporn Sawatdichai 2012: Appropriate Pattern of Tent Camping in National Parks. Master of Science (Park, Recreation, and Tourism), Major Field: Park, Recreation, and Tourism, Department of Conservation. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Noppawan Tanakanjana Phongkhieo, Ph.D. 234 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study on natural environment and physical development characteristics of campsites in national parks, to study camping motivation, the experiences campers obtained from tent camping, camper's preferences on campsite settings, and their recreation behavior, and to recommend appropriate pattern of tent camping in national parks. Site assessment form was used to evaluate natural environment and physical development characteristics at the study campsites. Questionnaire was used to collect data from 415 campers in 4 national parks. The appropriateness of campsites was evaluated by simple weighting score equation while visitor data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, factor analysis, paired-sample t-test, and correlation analysis.

The study found that the 4 study campsites had moderate to high appropriateness on natural environment and physical development characteristics. Most campers were motivated by camping atmosphere. They preferred the campsites with easy access to necessary support facilities. The majority of camping groups had 1-2 tents and spent 1-2 nights at each campsite. Viewing scenery and relaxing were most favorite activities among campers. The highest level of experience gained from camping was touching nice weather. The study recommended that the appropriate campsites in national parks should have outstanding scenic beauty of landscape and highly maintained natural environment. The appropriate recreation activities for campers should be passive recreation activities such as walking for pleasure, viewing scenery, relaxing, picnicking etc.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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